



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

VB

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------

08/915,659 08/21/97 O'BRIEN

T D6020

EXAMINER

HM12/0204

BENJAMIN ADLER
MCGREGOR & ADLER
8011 CANDLE LANE
HOUSTON TX 77071

BUGAISKY, G

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1653

DATE MAILED:

02/04/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
08/915,659

Applicant(s)
O'Brien et al.

Examiner
Gabriele E. Bugalsky

Group Art Unit
1653



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Nov 10, 1999

☒ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

- ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4-8, and 11 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4-8, and 11 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
- ☐ received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) _____
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

Art Unit: 1653

DETAILED ACTION

The amendment of 11/10/99 is acknowledged. Claims 1, 4-9 and 11 remain pending; claim 9 remains withdrawn from consideration.

Drawings

Applicants are reminded that the drawings remain objected to, as detailed in the PTO-948 which accompanied paper no. 9.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

The rejection of claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, for scope of enablement limited to fragments of DNA smaller than chromosomal DNA, is withdrawn, based upon the amendment.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

The rejection of claims 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, is withdrawn based upon the amendment.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as

Art Unit: 1653

the invention. It is unclear what are the metes and bounds of a labeled hybridization probe comprising part of an open reading frame. . of SEQ ID NO:7. The claim might be construed to read upon a single nucleotide or a single codon. If so, then the claim is incomplete, as it is unclear how one could detect expression of specific message. Furthermore, the claim is unclear in that hybridization does not detect expression of a protein, rather that what is detected is mRNA abundance, which may nor may not be correlated to differences in protein accumulation.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1, 4-8 and 11 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 and 11 of copending Application No. 09/137944. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both sets of claims are drawn to DNAs encoding a TADG-14 protein of SEQ ID NO:7, constructs containing the DNA and a method of detecting expression..

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Art Unit: 1653

The newly presented grounds of rejection based upon double patenting will not preclude the finality of this Office action. Indeed, these grounds of rejection involve conflicting claims in a copending application newly discovered by the Examiner, which has the same inventive entity, assignee and attorney, and Applicants did not call the attention of the Office to the copending application(s). Applicants will not be permitted to extend the prosecution of the present application by reason of their inaction with regard to notice to the Office of conflicting claims in copending applications, the discovery of which necessitated the new grounds of rejection at this advanced point in the prosecution. Indeed, with appropriate notice, these grounds of rejection clearly could have been incorporated in a prior Office action. This situation is clearly analogous to the policy of making an action final where applicant's material amendments to the claims necessitated a new ground of rejection, since in both instances it is applicant who caused the rejection to be applied after the case had received an action on the merits. See MPEP Section 706.07(a).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be

Art Unit: 1653

calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Gabriele E. Bugaisky, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (703) 308-4201. The Examiner can normally be reached from 7:30 AM to 1:30 PM on weekdays.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Christopher S. F. Low, can be reached at (703) 308-2923.

Papers related to this application may be submitted by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technology Center 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The Fax Center number is (703) 308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.



January 31, 2000

*Supervisory
Patent*

Christopher S.F. Low
CHRISTOPHER S. F. LOW
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1800 1653